

The New York Times POLL

May 31 - June 3, 2012

Total N= 976

The nationwide poll is based on telephone interviews conducted by calling a randomly selected sample of land-line telephone numbers and cellphone numbers using live interviewers. The results have been weighted to adjust for variation in the sample relating to geographic region, sex, race, Hispanic origin, marital status, age, education and number of adults in the household. Respondents in the land-line sample were also weighted to take account of the number of telephone lines into the residence.

In theory, in 19 cases out of 20, overall results based on such samples will differ by no more than 3 percentage points in either direction from what would have been obtained by seeking to interview all American adults. For smaller subgroups, the margin of sampling error is larger. The margin of sampling error for those who went back to school is plus or minus 6 points. Shifts in results between polls over time also have a larger sampling error. In addition to sampling error, the practical difficulties of conducting any survey of public opinion may introduce other sources of error into the poll. Variation in the wording and order of questions, for example, may lead to somewhat different results.

23. Have you gone back to school in the past five years for more training, such as getting a new certificate or a new degree, or haven't you?
IF YES, ASK: What new credential did you go back to school for a certificate of some sort, an associate's degree, a bachelor's degree, a master's degree or something else?

	Certificate	Associate's degree	Bachelor's degree	Master's degree	Something else	No	DK/NA
5/31-6/3	10	6	8	3	5	67	1

Based on those who went back to school N=229

24. Did you need to take out a student loan for this training, or not?
IF YES, ASK: How concerned are you about your ability to pay back this debt -
- very concerned, somewhat concerned, not very concerned or not concerned at all?

	5/31-6/3
Very concerned	17
Somewhat concerned	8
Not very concerned	3
Not at all concerned	8
Did not take out loan	58
Already paid off (vol)	2
Home equity or other loan (vol.)	1
DK/NA	4

25. Did you complete the certificate or degree or not?

	Yes	No	Still in training	DK/NA
5/31-6/3	54	27	18	1

26. Did the training help you get a new job or promotion, or not?

	Yes	No	Still in training	DK/NA
5/31-6/3	29	49	21	1

27. Do you think going back to school for additional training was a good investment of time and money, or wasn't it?

	Yes	No	Depends	DK/NA
5/31-6/3	84	8	5	3